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Identical letters dated 4 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 April 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq, as represented by the maintenance of the unlawful no-flight zones, and to the fact that United States and British aircraft carried out 331 sorties over the towns and villages of Iraq in the period from 22 to 31 March 2000, 139 of them from Saudi Arabia, 70 from Kuwait and 122 from Turkey. The Minister further urges the Security Council to intervene with a view to halting these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 3 April 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and carried out 331 sorties in the period from 22 to 31 March 2000. One hundred and thirty-nine of these sorties were from Saudi Arabia, 70 were from Kuwait and 122 were from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 122 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 26 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Irbil, Rawanduz, Tall Afar, Mosul and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1005 hours on 27 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 24 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar, Rawanduz and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1005 hours on 28 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Mosul and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1020 hours on 29 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Sinjar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1020 hours on 30 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Ayn

Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1035 hours on 31 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Mosul, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 209 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0710 hours on 22 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out eight missions, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Nasiriyah West, Salman, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah South and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0900 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1455 hours on 25 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Samawah, Jalibah, Busayyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Amarah and Rifa`i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1600 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0955 hours on 26 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf, Qurnah, Lasaf, Salman, Ashbajah, Afak and Diwaniyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1030 hours on 27 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Qurnah, Qal`at Sukkar, Salman, Shinafiyah, Shatrah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Rumaythah, Qal`at Salih, Rifa`i, Busayyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1725 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1100 hours on 28 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 37 missions, 31 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Shatrah, Rifa`i, Nukhayb and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0750 hours on 29 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Amarah, Nukhayb, Najaf, Ashbajah, Diwaniyah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0955 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1100 hours on 30 March 2000, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Ashbajah, Artawi, Jalibah, Shatrah, Rumaythah, Lasaf and Rifa`i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to

inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent and sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq